



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of:

GATZE et al.

Serial No. 09/972,756

Filed: October 05, 2001

For: NOVEL SCREENING METHODS
TO IDENTIFY AGENTS THAT
SELECTIVELY INHIBIT
HEPATITIS C VIRUS
REPLICATION

Examiner: J. Ketter

FEB 13 2002

Group Art Unit: 1636 TECH CENTER 1600/290C

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence, including listed enclosures, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

on: 1-11-02

Dated: 1-11-02

Signed: Christine P. Peters

Christine P. Peters

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In satisfaction of the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, and in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants wish to draw the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to the reference cited on the accompanying form PTO-1449.

Since copies of all the references were provided either by the Applicant or the Examiner in the following related U.S. Applications; Serial No. 09/514,006, filed February 25, 2000, now Patent No. 6,326,151 B1 and U.S.S.N. 09/035,619, filed March 05, 1998, now Patent No. 6,030,785, upon which the instant application relies for its priority date, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), no copies of these references are enclosed.

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None of the foregoing references are believed to disclose the invention as claimed.

Nothing herein shall constitute an admission concerning the contents of any of the cited references, nor shall the inclusion of a reference herein be considered an admission that the reference constitutes prior art against the invention claimed in the above-identified application. Submission of the present document shall not be construed as an admission that a search has been made or that better art does not exist.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application, within three months of the date of entry of a national stage, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), and therefore no fee is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1300 (Our Order No. A-70383-2/RMS/AXG).

Respectfully submitted,

FLEHR, HOHBACH, TEST,
ALBRITTON & HERBERT

Dated: 11/01/02

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